

# Should Canada Lower the Voting Age?

## General Background

In 2015, Japan lowered its voting age from 20 to 18 and in 2007, Austria lowered its voting age from 18 to 16. Both nations have experienced high rates of youth voting participation. In July 2025, the UK announced its plans to lower the voting age from 18 to 16 as well. Some Métis nations in Canada already have the minimum voting age set to 16. Should the rest of Canada follow suit?

At Canada's confederation in 1867, the voting age was 21, which was also the standard voting age for most democracies at that time. Canada experimented with lowered age limits under influential pressure from young people engaged in military service and political life. The voting age was ultimately lowered to include everyone over 18 in 1970, as part of a global movement.

A new demand to lower the age for voting is currently underway.

## Questions to consider:

- What kind of credentials do you think should be required of voters?
- Could a system that privileges votes from those with knowledge and expertise, called an epistocracy, lead to a more effective democratic system?
- Would letting 16- and 17-year-olds vote make any significant difference to Canadian politics, or to young people?

## For More Information:

- [UK to Lower Voting Age to 16-But Not Everyone is Convinced](#)
- [Why the Voting Age Needs to be Lowered to 16](#)
- [Andrew Coyne: Lower the Voting Age to 16? Sure, but Why Stop There?](#)
- [The UK is Lowering Its Voting Age to 16. Should Canada Follow Suit?](#)

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